

John Henry Eaton to Andrew Jackson, December 3, 1822, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

JOHN H. EATON TO JACKSON.

Washington, December 3, 1822.

D'r Genl. Altho I have reached the City in safety, and been here for four days previous to the commencement of the Session so little of Courtly etiquette falls to my lot, that not yet has any the grand ones been visited; it grows out of no feeling of disrespect, but because in a place where all things are brought to standard value, I knew not if strict rule would sanction a frendly visit until the doors of Congress should be formally opened; except therefore from information derived thro others, it is not in my power to say to you, how your old friends and acquaintances in power may be. Rumor however proclaims them well; and while *he* who now fills the halls of the white House is slowly closing his eyes upon the *rich* trifles of the world, like an old father he stands surrounded by three full grown sons, each seeking the inheritance on his departure. Jno. Q. from the favours bestowed by the old man in his life time, has been deemed a favourite always: J. C.¹ however from being possesd of a sanguine temper sets up also pretensions to the inheritance. William² and the old gentleman you know, it has been reported are constantly disagreeing in opinion and are hence not quite so frendly, as father and son should be; be this as it may, it seems pretty well settled that the *Virginia estate* if not already done, will be *apportioned* to the Latter.

1 Calhoun.

2 Crawford.

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Nothing like management and intrigue is yet begun, there has not been sufficient time; that we shall have a *little* of it is quite probable enough. To day we shall amidst a fast falling shower of snow, receive the Message, our text book for the winter. It will apprise us we are told, that the state of the Treasury is full and flush; which if true will be very bad news to the radicals, the reformers of the abuses of a much injured people; the whole ground out of which to raise pitious lamentations before the nation will at a most desirable moment be quite taken away. Thus far have I scribbled merely by way of beginning, not having any thing necessary to be written about. . . .